



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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(562) 940-2501



DONALD H. BLEVINS
Chief Probation Officer

August 23, 2011

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TO: Each Supervisor
FROM:  Donald H. Blevins
Chief Probation Officer
SUBJECT: **POSITIVE PATH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER CONTRACT
COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW**

We have completed a review of Positive Path Group Home, operated by Positive Path Youth Development Center, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Positive Path Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, emotional, and psychological difficulties. At the time of this monitoring review, Positive Path Group Home was providing services for six (6) Probation children.

Positive Path Group Home is located in the Second District of Los Angeles County.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

SUMMARY

Based on child interviews and the contents of the Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) reviewed, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement and is adhering to the County contract and State and Federal regulations. However, the Agency needs to address one deficient area in the "Notable Findings" section that requires corrective action. Specifically, the Group Home needs to clean and remove mold/mildew in the bathroom of bedroom #3.

NOTABLE FINDINGS

The following are the notable findings of our review:

- Presence of mold and mildew around the shower pan in the bathroom of bedroom #3.

EXIT CONFERENCE

In attendance:

Cynthia Williams, Administrator
Leng Lim, Los Angeles County Probation Department Monitor

Highlights:

The Exit Conference was conducted on May 31, 2011. The deficiencies were addressed at the time of the exit conference. The representative present was in agreement with the findings of the review. Administrator Williams understood the importance of compliance with the Master Agreement Contract for Group Home Foster Care Services and agreed to make all necessary corrections in the areas of non-compliance regarding repairs or replacements. A written Corrective Action Plan was submitted on June 22, 2011 and has been approved. A follow-up visit was also conducted on June 22, 2011, to ensure that all deficiencies have been corrected. The results for the follow-up visit can be found on the final page of the "Compliance Monitoring Review" section.

If you need any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact Director, Lisa Campbell-Motton, Placement Permanency and Quality Assurance at (323) 240-2435.

DHB:REB:LCM:ed

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Brence Culp, Chief Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Jean Chen, Community Care Licensing
Cynthia Williams, Administrator, Positive Path Youth Development Center
Sheila Williams, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chief Deputies
Justice Deputies

**POSTIVE PATH GROUP HOME PROGRAM CONTRACT
COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW- SUMMARY**

	Contract Compliance Monitoring Review	Findings: May/2011
I	<p><u>Licensure/Contract Requirements</u> (9 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timely Notification for Child's Relocation 2. Stabilization to Prevent Removal of Child 3. Transportation 4. SIRs 5. Compliance with Licensed Capacity 6. Disaster Drills Conducted 7. Disaster Drill Logs Maintenance 8. Runaway Procedures 9. Allowance Logs 	(Full Compliance) ALL
II	<p><u>Program Services</u> (7 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Population Consistent with Program Statement 2. Probation Caseworker Authorization to Implement NSPs 3. Children's Participation in the Development of NSPs 4. NSPs Implemented and Discussed with Staff/Parents 5. Therapeutic Services Received 6. Recommendation Assessments/Evaluations Implemented 7. Probation Caseworkers Monthly Contact Verified 	(Full Compliance) ALL
III	<p><u>Facility and Environment</u> (6 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exterior Well Maintained 2. Common Areas Maintained 3. Children's Bedrooms/Interior Maintained 4. Sufficient Recreational Equipment 5. Sufficient Educational Resources 6. Adequate Perishable and Non Perishable Food 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Needs Improvement 4. Full Compliance 5. Full Compliance 6. Full Compliance
IV	<p><u>Educational and Emancipation Services</u> (4 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emancipation/Vocational Programs Provided 2. ILP and Emancipation Planning 3. Current IEPs Maintained 4. Current Report Cards Maintained 	(Full Compliance) ALL

V	<p><u>Recreation and Activities</u> (3 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in Recreational Activity Planning 2. Participation in Recreational Activities 3. Participation in Extra-Curricular, Enrichment and Social Activities. 	(Full Compliance) ALL
VI	<p><u>Children's Health-Related Services (including Psychotropic Medications)</u> (9 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current Court Authorization for Administration of Psychotropic Medication 2. Current Psychiatric Evaluation/Review 3. Medication Logs 4. Initial Medical Exams Conducted 5. Initial Medical Exams Timely 6. Follow-Up Medical Exams Timely 7. Initial Dental Exams 8. Initial Dental Exams Timely 9. Follow-Up Dental Exams Timely 	(Full Compliance) ALL
VII	<p><u>Personal Rights</u> (11 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children Informed of Home's Policies and Procedures 2. Children Feel Safe 3. Satisfaction with Meals and Snacks 4. Staff Treatment of Children with Respect and Dignity 5. Appropriate Rewards and Discipline System 6. Children Free to Receive or Reject Voluntary Medical, Dental and Psychiatric Care 7. Children Allowed Private Visits, Calls and Correspondence. 8. Children Free to Attend Religious Services/Activities 9. Reasonable Chores 10. Children Informed about Psychotropic Medication 11. Children Aware of Right to Refuse Psychotropic Medication 	(Full Compliance) ALL
VIII	<p><u>Children's Clothing and Allowance</u> (8 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$50.00 Clothing Allowance 2. Adequate Quantity Clothing Inventory 3. Adequate Quality Clothing Inventory 4. Involvement in Selection of Clothing 5. Provision of Personal Care Items 6. Minimum Monetary Allowances 7. Management of Allowance 8. Encouragement and Assistance with Life Book 	(Full Compliance) ALL

IX	<p><u>Personal Records (including Staff Qualifications, Staffing Ratios, Criminal Clearances and Training)</u> (12 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education/ Experience Requirement 2. Criminal Fingerprint Cards Timely Submitted 3. CAIs Timely Submitted 4. Signed Criminal Background Statement Timely 5. Employee Health Screening Timely 6. Valid Driver's Licenses 7. Signed Copies of GH Policies and Procedures 8. Initial Training Documentation 9. CPR Training Documentation 10. First Aid Training Documentation 11. On Going Training Documentation 12. Emergency Intervention Training Documentation 	(Full Compliance) ALL
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**POSITIVE PATH GROUP HOME PROGRAM
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW**

**Positive Path Group Home
24825 Neptune Avenue
Carson, CA 90745
License Number: 198206127
Rate Classification Level: 9**

LICENSURE/CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Based on our review of documents from the provider, Positive Path Group Home was in full compliance with all nine (9) elements in the area of Licensure/Contract Compliance: Timely Notification for Child's Relocation, Stabilization to Prevent Removal of Child, Special Incident Reports (SIRs), Compliance with Licensed Capacity, Disaster Drills Conducted, Disaster Drill Logs Maintenance and Runaway Procedures. The Group Home notifies all required agencies in a timely manner when a child is relocated. The Group Home takes all necessary steps to stabilize a child to prevent removal and provides the children with all their transportation needs. The Group Home completes, documents and reports all SIRs in a timely manner, complies with licensing capacity, conducts disaster drills, maintains disaster drill and allowance logs and follows runaway procedures accordingly. The disaster drill logs were reviewed and the last drills were conducted on May 11, 2011. The Group Home conducts drills on a quarterly basis. The Group Home implements "Immediate Contact Response Involve", which involves case planning meetings, crisis interventions and strategies involving the parents, child, therapists and the Group Home Administrator to increase placement stabilization and decrease runaways for each child as noted in program statement.

Recommendations:

None

PROGRAM SERVICES

Based on our review of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home complied with all seven (7) elements in the area of Program Services. The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) found in the children's files were carefully reviewed and revealed that the treatment team develops and implements the NSPs with input from the child. The Probation caseworkers gave authorization to implement the NSPs, and the NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals that are child specific.

The Group Home was in compliance with documenting Probation Caseworkers contact, as verified through visitor logs. Children interviews also revealed that their Probation Caseworkers visited them on a monthly basis. The children all met the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement and are assessed for needed services within 30 days of placement. The treatment team develops and implements the NSPs with input from the child. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services. The documentation reflects that signatures from all appropriate parties were obtained. All six (6) children interviewed stated that

they receive weekly therapy sessions that includes individual, group and family sessions. The children stated that they were part of their NSP process and received a copy of their NSP.

Recommendations:

None

FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Based on our walk through inspection of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home was not in compliance with one (1) of the six (6) elements in the area of Facility and Environment.

Positive Path Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front, sides and rear of the exterior are well maintained and properly landscaped with trimmed bushes, mowed lawns and the paint appeared clean. The Group Home recently had completed a \$10,000 dollar landscaping renovation project in the winter of 2010, which consists of new sprinkler systems, pavement stones, marathons sods, and various species of roses, flowers and perennials.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are also neat and clean, there is adequate furniture and lighting, and the Group Home provides a home-like environment for the children. The living and dining rooms are bright and airy. The interior paint colors appeared clean and free from marks. The window treatments and blinds were recently cleaned and free from dust.

The children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean, orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations; such as, posters and pictures. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. The window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have the appropriate amount of linens, pillows and bed covers, which are in good condition. The children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate and comfortable as revealed in the child interviews. However, the bathroom in Bedroom #3 has the presence of mold and mildew surrounding the shower pan.

The Group Home does maintain age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, such as, board games, a television, a computer, and a DVD player. Multiple books and resource materials are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable foods. The refrigerator had a full stock of milk, juices, lunch meats, and vegetables. The refrigerator in the garage had a full stock of frozen meats and vegetables. On the kitchen counter, there was a bowl of fresh fruits and bread, and the pantry had plenty of available snacks and treats for the children to eat.

Recommendations:

1. For the interior, the Group Home needs to clean, remove and disinfect the mold and mildew surrounding the shower pan in Bedroom #3.

EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Based on our review of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home complied with all four (4) elements in the area of Education and Emancipation Services.

The children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in their perspective as verified by their report cards. The children files reviewed reflected that report cards are maintained. The children attend public school and stated that they enjoy the school they attend. One child is involved in extracurricular activities in his school; he is on the football team and has tutoring after school. Of the six (6) children interviewed, three (3) have plans to attend college, a trade school and join the military and want to be mechanic, construction contractor and an automotive painter.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Specific self-help and survival skills that the Group Home assists the youth with are learning how to obtain important documents, open a savings account and complete job applications. Children are also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate. Of the six (6) children interviewed, one (1) child was participating in the Independent Living Program (ILP) The other five (5) children are too young to receive services due to the fact that they are under 15 ½ years of age. However, the Group Home is providing daily living skills for all children such as self-grooming, performing own laundry and household chores in preparing for the independent living. The one (1) child participating in ILP stated that he has learned life skills from the Group Home in preparing him to be independent for the real world after he turns 18 years old.

Recommendations:

None

RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Based on our review of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home complied with all three (3) elements in the area of Recreation and Activities.

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. The children are provided with opportunities to actively participate in planning activities of their choices. The Group Home provides several recreational, social, and educational activities for the residents to participate in; such as, outings to nearby beaches, parks to play sports, bowling, bike riding, malls, theater plays, movie theatres, sporting events, libraries, and museums. The children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest such as; table games and reading books. The Group Home provides all transportation to and from these activities. All six (6) children stated that they recently planned activities to the parks, movies, libraries, museums, bowling alley, and sporting events. One (1) child reported that they recently all went bike riding. All (6) children stated that they enjoy the recreation schedule provided by the Group Home.

Recommendations:

None

CHILDREN'S HEALTH RELATED-SERVICES, (INCLUDING PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION)

Based on our review of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home complied with all nine (9) elements in the area of Children's Health Related Services, Including Psychotropic Medication.

Of the six (6) children interviewed, two (2) of the six (6) children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation based on the psychotropic medication review tool confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained and children are aware of their right to refuse medication. The two (2) children interviewed stated that they are fully aware of their rights to refuse medication at any given time. They reported that the medication is helping them and improving their performance and overall state of well-being.

All children interviewed stated that they are satisfied with the medical treatment they receive and go to the doctor and dentist as needed. A review of the documents and interviews with the children confirmed that they all saw a doctor and a dentist within their first 30 days of placement.

Recommendations:

None

PERSONAL RIGHTS

Based on our review of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home complied with all 11 elements in the area of Personal Rights.

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures upon being placed. Positive Path provides a detailed orientation for each child, which includes extensive review of the Group Home rules, emergency procedures, and grievance policies. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that overall, the facility staff treat them with respect and dignity. The children interviewed specifically stated that they feel the staff at Positive Path truly care about them succeeding and their well being. Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding such as doing their own laundry, washing their own dishes, sweeping, mopping, and taking out the trash. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors, and attend religious services of their choice. All children consistently stated they are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive mails, have private visitors and attend any religious services of their choices.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. All children interviewed stated that they all received fair and equal discipline by having their daily points deducted for negative behavior. One child stated that he recently had his daily points deducted for substance abuse.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. They reported that the menu has variety and specifically stated that they love chicken and pasta. Children report that they are aware that they can reject or receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care. Children stated that they are all informed about psychotropic medication and their right to refuse them. The two (2) youth that do take psychotropic medications stated that they have never refused their medication.

Recommendations:

None

CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Based on our review of Positive Path Group Home and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Positive Path Group Home complied with all eight (8) elements in the area of Clothing and Allowance.

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance as required by the Master Agreement Contract for Group Home Foster Care Services. Children have the option to receive their clothing allowances on a monthly basis or accumulate their monthly clothing allowance on a quarterly basis for bigger purchases. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. The Group Home conducts shopping outings every three (3) months at appropriate clothing stores. All of the children interviewed stated that they prefer to save their clothing allowance and spend it every three (3) months. The children's files reviewed confirmed that they had signed consent forms stating they agree to save up their clothing allowance money. The Group Home Administrator also keeps clothing purchase receipts for each child to verify that the children's clothing allowance was spent. These receipts were reviewed and validated the Group Homes compliance in this area. The various stores where the children options provided to them are stores such as JC Penny, Sears, Target, DD's (Discount Store), Foot Locker, Shoe Warehouse, Macy's, Burlington Coat Factory, Ross, and various Swap meets.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance of \$7 and the children spend their allowances as they choose. The allowance log was reviewed and revealed that the children receive their allowance every Monday. The last time allowance was dispersed was Monday, May 16, 2011. Child interviews revealed that they spend their allowance on snacks at schools and various preferred personal items. The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Lastly, the Group Home encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. These photo albums/life books were reviewed and showed various pictures from outings and events on family outings.

Recommendations:

None

PERSONNEL RECORDS

Based on our review of documents in the employee's files at Positive Path Group Home, the Group Home complied with all 12 elements in the area of Personnel Records.

A review of 12 employee file records was completed. All training and background checks were completed and current. All staff in the sample had current driver's licenses, First Aid/CPR training, 20 hours of On-Going training, de-escalation and restraint training. All files reviewed had the required educational documentation, criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees prior to being hired.

Recommendations:

None

AUDITOR CONTROLLER FISCAL REVIEW

The most recent Fiscal Review for Positive Path Youth Development Center from the Department of Auditor-Controller is dated March 17, 2009, for the fiscal period of January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006. The report dated March 17, 2009 indicated that Positive Path Youth Development Center had \$8,208.00 in questioned/disallowed costs. Positive Path Youth Development Center submitted a timely approved fiscal CAP, which is being monitored by DCFS' Fiscal Monitoring Section.

Recommendations:

N/A

FOLLOW-UP VISIT

On June 22, 2011, a follow-up visit was conducted at Positive Path Group Home, to verify that all recommendations had been completed.

- A complete follow-up walk through inspection of the interior at Positive Path Group Home was conducted, and the recommendation has been repaired. The mildew/mold surrounding the shower pan in Bedroom #3 was scraped off and then cleaned, disinfected, and re-caulked by using mildew and mold resistant caulking. The Group Home facility manager will monitor and perform weekly cleaning to prevent the presence of mold and mildew from existing in the future.

Positive Path Youth Development Center, Inc.

24825 Neptune Avenue
Carson, California 90745
Phone: (310) 847-7160 Fax: (310) 847-7656

Date: June 22, 2011

To: Leng Lim, Deputy Probation Officer
Los Angeles County Probation Department

From: Cynthia Williams, Administrator
Positive Path Youth Development Center, Inc.

Re: Plan of Correction (CAP)

Below you will find the area of deficiency noted on May 26, 2011 was immediately corrected.

Facility and Environment

Bedroom #3:

Finding: Presence of mold/mildew surrounding the shower pan in the bathroom.

CAP: The above findings were immediately corrected on May 26, 2011. Our staff removed the old mildew caulking; disinfected, cleaned and re-caulked the surrounding needed area. Positive Path's facility manager will ensure routine cleaning of this area on a weekly basis to prevent future mold or mildew.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Williams, Administrator